

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 021343Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: MORG, MPOL, HA

SUBJECT: VSN ANNIVERSARY GIVEN BIG PLAY: ROSALIE ADOLPHE NAMED  
VSN SUPERVISOR GENERAL

1. PRESIDENTIAL BOOST TO VSN: ROSALIE RIDES AGAIN -  
IN SHARP CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S LOW KEY CELEBRATION,  
PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, DRESSED IN NATIONAL  
SECURITY VOLUNTEER (VSN) BLUE DENIM UNIFORM, PRESIDED  
OVER A MAJOR PARADE AND RECEPTION ON JULY 29 HONORING  
THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MILITIA  
(AND TONTON MACOUTES), SINCE RENAMED THE VSN.  
ANOTHER SURPRISE WAS HIS NAMING OF MRS. MAX (ROSALIE)  
ADOLPHE TO THE NEW POSITION OF NATIONAL VSN SUPERVISOR  
GENERAL. ADOLPHE, ONCE INFAMOUS AS COMMANDANT OF  
THE VSN UNIT AT FORT DIMANCHE PRISON FROM 1964 TO  
1971, RECENTLY FELL INTO OBSCURITY -- ALONG WITH MOST  
OTHER VSN LEADERS. ADOLPHE'S LAST ADMINISTRATIVE  
POSITION WAS AS PORT AU PRINCE MAYOR FROM MAY  
TO DECEMBER 1972. SHE WAS EVEN RUMORED TO HAVE  
BEEN DETAINED BRIEFLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTI-  
GATION IN JUNE 1975 OF AN ALLEGED ANTI-GOH PLOT  
INVOLVING FORMER MINISTERS RAMEAU ESTIME AND  
JEAN JULME. YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, SHE STOOD PROUDLY  
AT THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE IN FULL UNIFORM.

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2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHOCK TROOPS? - ECHOING

A THEME WIDELY PUBLICIZED THROUGH DUVALIER'S INTERVIEW  
PUBLISHED BY PARIS MATCH ON JULY 10, THE PRESIDENT  
AND OTHER VSN LEADERS SPOKE OF THE VSN'S NEW  
ROLE IN ASSISTING HAITI'S "ECONOMIC REVOLUTION"  
ON ALL FRONTS: PROFESSIONAL AND HANDICRAFT ACTIVITIES,  
MANUAL LABOR, AND ASSISTANCE TO PEASANT FARMERS.  
AT THE SAME, DUVALIER RECALLED THE VSN'S HISTORIC  
ROLE OF DEFENDING THE REGIME FROM ITS POLITICAL  
ENEMIES, AND ENCOURAGED VSN MEMBERS TO CONTINUE  
"TO SLEEP ALWAYS WITH ONE EYE OPEN."

3. VSN MORALE SOARS - THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE  
NEW BURST OF PRESIDENTIAL ATTENTION, TOGETHER WITH  
ROSALIE ADOPLHE" NEW APPOINTMENT AS NATIONAL  
SUPERVISOR GENERAL, GAVE AN ENORMOUS SHOT  
IN THE ARM TO THE VSN'S HERETOFORE SAGGING  
MORALE. THROUGHOUT THE EVENING OF JULY 29,  
VSN MILITIAMEN WERE CAROUSING DRUNKENLY AROUND  
THE CITY, SHOOTING GUNS IN THE AIR LIKE COWBOYS  
IN THE OLD WEST. WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY  
RESULTING INJURIES OR DEATHS, THE POLICE WERE  
LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR SPOTTY EFFORTS TO  
PREVENT MILITIAMEN FROM FIRING THEIR RIFLES AND  
PISTOLS.

4. COMMENT: AS ONE OBSERVER NOTED WRYLY, HE  
DOUBTED THAT THE VSN MILITIAMEN WERE CELEBRATING IN  
JOYFUL ANTICIPATION OF HELPING OUT PEASANTS. THEY,  
AT LEAST, SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE GOOD OLD BAD DAYS  
OF DUVALIERISM ARE RETURNING -- A VIEW DOUBTLESS  
SHARED BY HAITIAN POLITICAL EXILES. ON THE OTHER HAND,  
MINISTERS LEVEILLE (AGRICULTURE) AND LAURIN (PUBLIC  
WORKS) HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY TO EMBOFFS THAT THE  
VSN IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE LARGE NUMBERS OF  
LABORERS FOR FUTURE GOH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.  
THUS, WHETHER DUVALIER JUST KICKED OFF THE NEW  
ECONOMIC ACTIVIST PHASE FOR THE STILL UNSUSPECTING  
VSN REGULARS OR INSTEAD ENCOURAGED A BACKWARD  
STEP FOR POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, REMAINS AN  
OPEN QUESTION. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE VSN  
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IS BACK IN THE DUVALIERIST LIMELIGHT, FOR BETTER  
OR FOR WORSE.  
ISHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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